



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **For Information Contact:**

**Public Affairs**

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### **District Man Sentenced to 6 1/2-Year Prison Term For 2010 Attack in Northwest Washington - Defendant Repeatedly Yelled, "I Just Want to Hit Someone!"-**

WASHINGTON - Byron Sneed, 26, of Washington, D.C., has been sentenced to a prison term of 6 ½ years for aggravated assault and other charges stemming from an attack against a random stranger last year, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Sneed pled guilty in March 2011 to aggravated assault and simple assault. He was sentenced August 19, 2011 by the Honorable Herbert B. Dixon, Jr. The judge ordered that Sneed receive anger management counseling and a mental health evaluation while he is incarcerated. Upon completion of his prison term, Sneed will be placed on three years of supervised release.

According to the government's evidence, Sneed was intoxicated and angry after an earlier confrontation with an unidentified person on August 4, 2010 when he encountered the 55-year-old victim in the 1900 block of Ninth Street NW. The victim was minding his own business, leaning against a car. Pacing back and forth, Sneed repeatedly yelled, "I just want to hit somebody!" Suddenly and without warning, he attacked the victim.

Sneed struck the victim, sending him to the ground. As the victim remained defenseless, the 245-pound defendant stomped him in the face and chest repeatedly. He stomped the victim's face so hard that a visible shoe print was left. The defendant's friends eventually were able to stop the attack and prevent Sneed from attacking a witness who tried to help the victim.

The victim was treated at a hospital for injuries that included a dislocated left shoulder, an abrasion to the side of his face and abrasions on both elbows.

In sentencing papers submitted to the Court, the U.S. Attorney's Office noted that Sneed had prior convictions for charges stemming from other violent outbursts, including attempted robbery, robbery and simple assault and destruction of property.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised those who worked on the case from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), including Detective Kristal N. Boyd, Officer Larry Garrett, Officer Craig Mayor and Officer Linda Smith. He also commended the efforts of those who worked on the case from the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Assistant U.S. Attorneys Scharn Robinson and Emily A. Miller, who prosecuted the matter.

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